

Message

From: Suero, Maryann [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=1F0D67522A5A42D5ACD1AC3E14C70CF2-MSUERO]
Sent: 6/23/2020 5:19:28 PM
To: Walts, Alan [walts.alan@epa.gov]; Triantafillou, Kathy [triantafillou.kathy@epa.gov]
Subject: RE: Updates and Phone Call

I see that we have a conversation scheduled for later today but I wanted to put something down so I wouldn't forget it.

It seems that in order to build an EJ partnership that's broad enough to bring several disparate, but similarly impacted, communities together, there has to be some framework or network that's larger than what currently exists. I know we mentioned to Nicole and Debbie early on about possible university connections, but I wonder if this might be a case for bringing in the gentleman that we were speaking about yesterday, on our team meeting. I'm sorry, I can't remember his name.

Just glancing quickly at the Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville website, I noticed several professors that have some sort of environmental justice focus or credibility or concern. Perhaps the gentleman we spoke about yesterday might be able to reach out to multiple departments at SIU, who can then provide some of the skill building, community capacity building etc that needs to take place, but also connect to some of the environmental / environmental engineering programs that might be able to come up with some of the solutions.

It's just a thought, but I didn't want to forget it before we spoke later... Also, if SIUE is not interested / available, there's a Jesuit university on the MO side (St. Louis Univ) that might be interested / available. Jesuit institutions always have a social justice bent to their education.

Talk later,
maryann

From: Walts, Alan <walts.alan@epa.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, June 23, 2020 8:46 AM
To: Triantafillou, Kathy <triantafillou.kathy@epa.gov>; Suero, Maryann <suero.maryann@epa.gov>
Subject: FW: Updates and Phone Call

Hi – wanted to connect before responding. Please advise and happy to talk.

Director, Tribal and Multi-media Programs Office (TMPO)
U.S. EPA, Region 5
Phone: (312) 353-8894

From: Nicole D. Nelson <nnelson@equitylegalservices.org>
Sent: Tuesday, June 23, 2020 8:43 AM
To: Walts, Alan <walts.alan@epa.gov>
Cc: Debbie Chizewer <dchizewer@earthjustice.org>; Kalila Jackson <kjackson@ehoc-stl.org>; Anna Sewell <asewell@earthjustice.org>; Ospina, Natalia <nospina@nrdc.org>; mgeertsma@nrdc.org
Subject: Updates and Phone Call

Hi Alan,
I hope you are doing well. Our team is reaching out to provide you with a few updates and to determine your availability for a call.

When we last spoke we mentioned that we were close to filing litigation. On 6/5, two organizations from our team (mine and Kalila Jackson from EHOC) filed a Complaint for Injunctive Relief in the Southern District of Illinois. I have attached those pleadings for you and your team's review.

Since that filing, several newspapers have covered the filing, including the St. Louis Post Dispatch, Belleville News Democrat, St. Louis NPR, Madison St. Clair Record, and the Southern Illinoisan. We have received numerous phone calls, emails, emails received from these publications forwarded to us from residents in Centreville and many from Cahokia asking for help because of raw sewage in their homes and yards and stormwater flooding in their neighborhoods.

While our team is aware that these surrounding municipalities have been struggling with similar issues and would love to be able to dedicate resources and time to assist everyone, unfortunately, we do not have the resources available to do so. We barely have the resources needed (and often run into many barriers) to assist the Centreville residents.

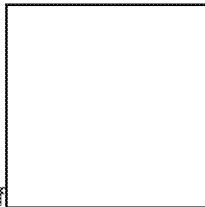
We would like to schedule a call with you and any other members of your team you believe it would be helpful to have on the call to have a more substantive discussion with clear steps on what it would take to start building environmental justice partnerships and begin bringing in resources in the metro-east to include all of these predominantly black and/or low-income communities that are suffering from these flooding and raw sewage issues.

We are greatly appreciative of the interest you and your team have shown in wanting to help resolve the issues in Centreville and we hope we can all work together to resolve these conditions.

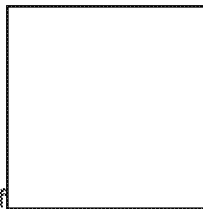
Thanks and we look forward to speaking with you.

-Nicole

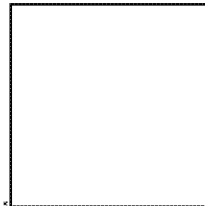
Doc #1--Complaint.pdf



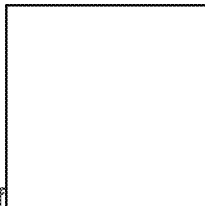
Doc #2- Motion for Injunctive Relief.pdf



Doc #3--Memorandum in Support of Plaintiffs' Co...



Exhibits A-L-Combined-filed.pdf



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